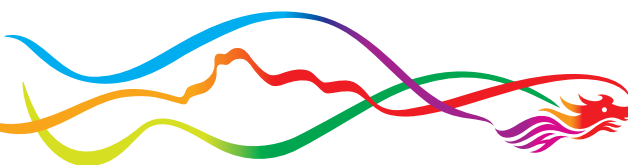


HONG KONG REVIEW

October 2026

Hong Kong Economic
and Trade Office, London



Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan – a new chapter unveiled

Hong Kong has launched its first five-year plan to elevate the economy and ensure the dividends of development are shared by all.

The blueprint aims for economic breakthroughs through innovation, new industries, quality global talent and holistic policies to improve livelihoods.

Hong Kong will be an “opportunity-rich world city”, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Mr John Lee, pledged as he set out the plan alongside his annual policy address on 16th September. Giving strategic direction amid geopolitical uncertainties, the road map harnesses the city's advantages while riding on the nation's five-year plan.

It has 22 key performance indicators: five “binding” ones to be fulfilled and 17 “anticipatory” or aspirational goals.



Left:
The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, delivered his fifth Policy Address to the Legislative Council.

Above top:
The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, (centre), the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki (second left); the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (second right); the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC (first left); and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Miss Janice Tse Siu-wa (first right), present the First Five-Year Plan and the 2026 Policy Address at a press conference.

Seven Principles

- Adhere to the “One Country, Two Systems” principle
- Remain committed to a livelihood-oriented approach
- Uphold an executive-led system
- Embrace reform and innovation
- Uphold the two-pronged approach of “effective market” and “capable government”
- Adopt a holistic approach to development and security
- A pragmatic and proactive planning

Six Key Themes

- Double down** on four centres, one hub ambitions: enhance status as international financial, trade, maritime and aviation, and I&T centres and hub for high-calibre talent
- Deepen** Greater Bay Area connections: work towards first-class bay area, extend international exchanges and networks
- Speed up** development of Northern Metropolis: go north for innovation, the area will be ideal for living, work and travel
- Enhance** social well-being: benefits of growth and national development to be shared by residents
- Leverage** international city status: grow legal hub status, including on dispute and IP matters, deepen East-meets-West node for cultural exchanges
- Adopt a holistic approach** to development and security: have a reform-oriented mindset and safeguard long-term prosperity

Does a five-year plan make it a planned economy?

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, has stressed the five-year plan will retain the city's capitalist core and give full play to the advantages of the free market “without distorting Hong Kong”. Experts say many places do long-term planning without weakening the market.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The 22 Targets

If binding goals are not met, there will be accountability, the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, has vowed.

See full
5-year plan
online



Five Binding Targets with Goals by 2030s (Figures in brackets indicate base year performance.)

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 "Spade-ready sites" available in Northern Metropolis in five years (120 hectares)
Goal: 900 hectares | 2 Carbon intensity reduction against 2020 level (12.3%)
Goal: Cumulative 32.5% reduction in 2030 vs 2024 level | 3 Zero-carbon energy share in fuel mix of electricity generation (25%)
Goal: 30% | 4 Average PM2.5 in ambient air (15µg/m3)
Goal: Less than 14µg/m3 | 5 Compliance of surface water quality goals (over 88%)
Goal: Over 90% |
|---|---|---|---|--|

17 Anticipatory Targets with Goals by 2030s (Figures in brackets indicate base year performance.)

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Real GDP growth (3.6%)
Goal: Within a reasonable range | Labour Productivity Index growth (2.3%)
Goal: At a stable level | Air cargo throughput (5.07 million tonnes)
Goal: Maintain world-leading position | Total imports & exports of goods (HK\$10,927.1 billion)
Goal: Steady growth | Total imports & exports of services (HK\$1,626.8 billion)
Goal: Steady growth |
| Ratio of domestic expenditure on innovation to GDP (1.63%)
Goal: 3% after 2030 | Ratio of value added of manufacturing & new industries to GDP (3.8%)
Goal: 5.5% after 2030 | Global financial centre (ranked 3rd globally)
Goal: Strengthen world-leading position | International wealth management centre (ranked 1st globally)
Goal: Strengthen world-leading position | Companies with HQ outside Hong Kong (11 070)
Goal: Average annual increase of 4-5% |
| Number of domestic units in Northern Metropolis in five years (11 000)
Goal: 70 000 units | Number of non-local students in full-time local post-secondary education programmes (79 800)
Goal: 100 000 people | Value added of tourism industry (HK\$86.2 billion)
Goal: HK\$126 billion | Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons (HK\$22,200)
Goal: In line with the trend of economic growth | Risk of premature mortality from four major non-communicable diseases (7.3%)
Goal: 6.9% |
| | | | Ratio of doctors per 1 000 population (2.25)
Goal: 2.43 persons | Per capita public current health expenditure (HK\$18,000)
Goal: On an upward trend |

83 'Work Indicators'

These are on top of the 22 major indicators, bringing the number of goals to 105. Some key ones include:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
|
Increase flight destinations from 220 to 240 |
Increase the proportion of foreign visitors among overnight tourists to 40% |
Expand product supply in the offshore RMB market |
|
Set up a HK\$10 billion Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund |
Implement the half-rate tax concession for commodity trading |
Advance the establishment of the International Commercial Court |

A Strategic Vision for a Bright New Era

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, delivered his fifth Policy Address on 16th September, entitled "A Strategic Vision for a Bright New Era, Driving Reform and Boosting Development, Unleashing Opportunities and Enhancing Livelihood", taking the First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the HKSAR (2026-2030) as its blueprint, putting forward a series of measures to create development opportunities and enhance the well-being of the people.

In this Address, Mr Lee conveyed that this year marks the opening year of the National 15th Five-Year Plan and the HKSAR Government has formulated its first Five-Year Plan to proactively align with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, seizing opportunities for development while better integrating into and serving the overall national development.

In the thick of accelerating global changes not seen in a century, the vibrant momentum driven by the country's robust strength, enormous market and high-quality development presents Hong Kong with boundless opportunities.

He added that the HKSAR will better develop our economy and boost social well-being, starting a bright new chapter for Hong Kong. The major highlights are outlined below.

Four Centres and One Hub Strengthen the diversified development as an international financial centre:

- Consolidate the leading position in the stock market, deepen Hong Kong's presence in areas with growth potential such as bonds, specialty insurance and Renminbi (RMB) business, etc., and proactively lay out forwarding plan for emerging sectors (such as tokenised products).

Develop a commodity trading ecosystem:

- Implement a half-rate tax concession for physical commodity trading.
- Explore the provision of tax concessions for qualifying activities within the gold and commodity trading ecosystem.
- Announce details of the new RMB-denominated and physically settled gold futures contracts.

Advance international maritime centre and strengthen high value-added maritime services:

- The development focus of Hong Kong as a maritime centre will further shift from traditional port logistics to leveraging the city's advantages in high value-added maritime services, covering areas such as ship management, ship leasing, ship finance, marine insurance, and maritime law and arbitration, etc.

Support international aviation hub and foster the development of the sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) industry:

- Spearheaded the establishment of Hong Kong's world-leading SAF production base in Dongguan.

Consolidate international trade centre and build a high value-added supply chain services centre:

- Deepen the work of the Task Force on

Supporting Chinese Mainland Enterprises in Going Global, including collaboration with Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland trade associations; and introduce environmental, social and governance (ESG) services, among others.

- Establish the Task Force on High Quality Development of Textile and Fashion Industry to co-ordinate and pursue the textile and fashion industry's high-quality development.

Develop international innovation and technology centre and co-ordinate the application and risk governance of artificial intelligence (AI):

- Promote AI awareness and deepen AI application and development in finance, healthcare, legal sector, construction, transport, social welfare, tourism and broadcasting, etc., as well as support AI upgrading for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

United Nations establishing a centre of excellence on global advanced manufacturing in Hong Kong:

- Successfully facilitated the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to establish its first centre of excellence on global advanced manufacturing in the Asia-Pacific region in Hong Kong, with a focus on the fields of AI+ manufacturing, robotics, new energy and industrial design.

Formulate the development plan of frontier technology and support aerospace development and others:

- The Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited will consider enhancements to Chapter 18C of the Listing Rules to attract enterprises in emerging industries such as aviation and aerospace to raise capital in Hong Kong.

Deepen the development of an international education hub:

- Extend for two years the pilot arrangement of including graduates

from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area campuses of Hong Kong universities under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates for them to remain in / come to Hong Kong for employment.

- Allocate sites in the Northern Metropolis or other areas in 2027 for the development of international schools to meet society's demand and support talent development.

Northern Metropolis

- Develop three university towns, driving the simultaneous development of education, technology and industry.
- Commencement of all nine New Development Areas in the Northern Metropolis.

Hong Kong's International Advantages

Deepen the development of an international legal and dispute resolution services centre:

- Welcome the International Organization for Mediation to accept and handle disputes in emerging industries, including commodity trading and space economy, etc.

Develop a regional intellectual property trading centre and strengthen the in-house examination capacity under the original grant patent system:

- Officially launch the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Academy in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Develop an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange and boost development of the cultural industry:

- WestK Performing Arts Centre to open in 2027, with four performance venues built to top international theatre standards.

See full policy
address online



Education

Developing Northern Metropolis University Town



Hong Kong's First Five-Year Plan sets out the development of three university towns in San Tin, Hung Shui

Kiu (HSK) and Ta Kwu Ling (TKL) in the Northern Metropolis. Developed based on the concept of "One Town, Five Elements",

each uniquely positioned university town encompasses education, technology, industry, talent and urban development.

San Tin University Town will focus on the development of medicine, life and health technology, AI, robotics, microelectronics and emerging industries, serving as the core of future I&T development in Hong Kong. HSK University Town is positioned as a cultivation centre for smart manufacturing applied post-secondary education and internationalised talent. TKL University Town will incorporate arts and blue-green development elements, while reserving strategic development space for future development needs.

The HKSAR Government is rolling out three sites in the HSK University Town campus area, with a total area of around 26 hectares, for application by eligible post-secondary institutions. Loan arrangements will be provided to support campus construction, while successful institutions will be granted the sites at a nominal land premium by way of private treaty grants.

Eligible post-secondary institutions are invited to submit applications by 31st December 2026.

Left: The Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, briefs the Legislative Council members at the construction site of Northern Metropolis University Town in HSK.

● ● ● Anniversary

Celebrating the 29th Anniversary

Hong Kong marked the 29th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with a reception on 1st July.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, delivered a speech at the anniversary reception and highlighted the formation of a “result-oriented” government focused on tackling long-standing issues. He said that a safe and stable Hong Kong is built by fulfilling the historic task of enacting local legislation under Article 23 of the Basic Law and strengthening the shield of national security, improved the electoral system and strengthened district governance. On Hong Kong’s economy, Hong Kong had shifted from negative growth of 3.7% when the current-term government took office to positive growth of 3.6% in 2025.

Looking ahead, Mr Lee said the HKSAR Government would focus efforts in three main areas: the formulation of Hong Kong’s Five-Year Plan; fast-track the development of the Northern Metropolis; and further improve people’s livelihood.



Above: National and regional flags raised at Golden Bauhinia Square in Wan Chai for HKSAR’s 29th anniversary.

● ● ● Technology

Hong Kong’s first payload expert makes history with Shenzhou-23 launch



The first payload expert from Hong Kong, Dr Lai Ka-ying, was aboard the Shenzhou-23 manned spaceship flight from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.

As it successfully entered its predetermined orbit, the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, extended warm congratulations on the successful launch and sent his best wishes to the crew members, saying “all citizens of Hong Kong are thrilled and proud”.

“This mission is of great significance, as it is not only the first manned spaceflight mission during the 15th Five-Year Plan period, but also the first time for a payload expert from the HKSAR to participate in it”, he added.

Above: Dr Lai Ka-ying (first left) at the send-off ceremony.

● ● ● Legislation

Double boost for Northern Metropolis

New legislation is set to streamline Hong Kong’s planning and lands procedures, expedite construction works and facilitate industry operations for the Northern Metropolis (NM).

The bill was introduced into the Legislative Council for its first and second readings in July 2026, with the HKSAR Government aiming to secure its passage within the year. The bill establishes the legal foundation for various upcoming legislative proposals including the delineation of the official boundaries of the NM, streamlining town planning procedures and expediting land resumption compensation payments.

It also covers measures to foster innovation and quality in construction works, simplify Construction Noise Permit application processes, ease the cross-boundary flow of production factors and establish statutory corporations for designated areas.

At the same time, a new railway scheme for the Hong Kong section of the Northern Link (NOL) Spur Line has been announced, creating new stations as well as improving the network’s coverage and resilience.

This is an important transport infrastructure project, driving the development of the NM and facilitating Hong Kong’s better integration into national development, in line with the National 15th Five-Year Plan.

●●● Innovation

Top tech tips from Sweden and Finland

HKSAR's Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong visited Sweden and Finland in May 2026 to strengthen ties and collaboration in Innovation and Technology (I&T).

In Stockholm, Professor Sun visited KTH Royal Institute of Technology and received a briefing on the latest developments in innovation ecosystem and biotechnology research and development.

He hoped to learn from Sweden's successful experience in the development of industry-academia-research integration, so as to transform the Northern Metropolis into an international hub for I&T and education.

At a roundtable luncheon hosted by the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, Professor Sun emphasised that Hong Kong could act as a "super connector" and "super value-adder" in facilitating I&T co-operation between the Chinese Mainland and European countries including Sweden.

Professor Sun also had an in-depth exchange with the Karolinska Institutet's Vice President, Professor Martin Bergö, and learned about the Flemingsberg Science Foundation's work in building a local life science cluster.

He also visited the Uppsala University to learn about its work in sustainable development and technological innovation.

Finland finish

During his visit in Helsinki, Professor Sun met Finland's Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Sakari Puisto, to hear that Finland's leading advantages in areas such as sustainable development and life sciences closely align with Hong Kong's development strategies, offering vast scope for collaboration.

Professor Sun also visited Aalto University to learn about its entrepreneurship ecosystem in AI, health technology and biomaterials, and received a briefing from the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, a state-owned research and technology organisation which focuses on applied research and industrial innovation.



Above top to bottom:

Professor Sun Dong (third right) visited KTH and met with the Vice President of Global Relations, Professor Stefan Östlund (second left), to exchange views on deepening international collaboration.

Professor Sun Dong (fourth right) attended a roundtable luncheon hosted by the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and gave a sharing at the luncheon in Stockholm.

Professor Sun Dong spoke at a dinner reception co-hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London and the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Sweden in Stockholm.

Professor Sun Dong delivered a keynote speech at the dinner reception in Helsinki co-hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London and the Finland-Hong Kong Business Association.

●●● Business

Hong Kong remains Asia's top international city

Hong Kong has retained its position as Asia's top international city, ranking first in the Asian Cities Internationality Index (ACII) 2026 launched by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hong Kong scored 74.6, up from 73.7 in 2025, and ranked first overall among the cities surveyed. The city also strengthened its position across the Index's seven key dimensions, advancing from fourth to third in "Innovation and Ideas". Survey respondents likewise rated Hong Kong as Asia's most international city. The Index highlighted Hong Kong's world-class infrastructure, open business environment and strong connectivity, as well as its unique "One Country, Two Systems" framework, underscoring the city's role as a premier gateway connecting the Chinese Mainland with the world.

Business

Booming business environment

The success of enterprises setting up or expanding businesses in Hong Kong was celebrated at the annual International and Mainland Businesses Welcome Reception.

It was organised by Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) which assisted 413 enterprises in setting up or expanding their businesses in the city in the first half of 2026. These investments are expected to bring in over HK\$53 billion in foreign direct investment, up 36% year on year, and create more than 8 600 new jobs.

Right: Toasting their achievement, pictured are HKSAR's Chief Executive, Mr John Lee (second left); the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau (second right); the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Ms Carol Yip (first left); and the Director-General of Investment Promotion, Ms Alpha Lau (first right).



Innovation

London Tech Week



Hong Kong's innovation story took the spotlight at London Tech Week as InvestHK and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London spearheaded a few days of high-impact engagements aimed at deepening United Kingdom-Hong Kong collaboration in technology, talent and capital.

Pictured above is a fireside chat moderated by the Head of Business and Talent Attraction/Investment Promotion of the InvestHK London Office, Ms Daisy Ip (left).

Economy

Top spot secured



There's been a massive vote of confidence in Hong Kong's position as a world-leading cross-boundary wealth management centre.

It has overtaken Switzerland to be ranked Number One according to the Global Wealth Report 2026, released by Boston Consulting Group.

The report also projects that the cross-boundary wealth managed by Hong Kong will grow at an average annual rate of 9% from 2025 to 2030, retaining its global lead. In addition, Hong Kong has moved up one place to become the second most-competitive economy, according to the latest World Competitiveness Ranking 2026, published by the International Institute for Management Development. It marks Hong Kong's highest ranking since 2019.

Trade

Gold clearing launched



To develop its gold-trading infrastructure, Hong Kong has launched a trial operation of the gold central clearing and settlement system.

Alongside are targeted initiatives to build a modern, full-chain trading ecosystem. This includes plans to expand storage capacity and refining capabilities, diversify gold

investment products, explore tax incentives, co-ordinate insurance arrangements, bolster the flexibility of Mandatory Provident Fund investments in gold exchange-traded funds, and institute an industry-led trade association.

Sustainability

Green investment drive

InvestHK led its first New Energy and Sustainability Mission to the UK, co-organised with the UK's Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade.



The delegation, led by InvestHK's Global Head of Financial Services, Fintech and Sustainability, Mr King Leung (front row, sixth right), and the Senior Vice President (Sustainability) for Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Ms Olivia To (front row, fourth right), visited the University of Edinburgh. The Director-General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London, Miss Fiona Chau (front row, fifth left) also joined the delegation.

●●● Innovation

Research in action



The third InnoHK research cluster, SEAM@InnoHK, was staged by the Innovation and Technology Commission. It focuses on four frontier technology fields – sustainable development, energy, advanced manufacturing and materials – marking an important milestone in Hong Kong's journey to become an international innovation and technology hub.

Eight research centres have been approved, backed by HK\$2.5 billion of government funding. The centres are led by renowned local and overseas universities and research institutions, and have established collaborations with a number of top-tier universities and research institutions worldwide.

Above: The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, speaking at the third InnoHK research cluster launch ceremony.

●●● Law

Commercial court plans



The Hong Kong Judiciary has announced plans to establish the Hong Kong International Commercial Court (HKICC), a specialist division of the High Court, to adjudicate complex, high-value international and cross-boundary commercial disputes.

The HKICC will complement Hong Kong's existing arbitration and mediation services, offering businesses and investors a comprehensive range of dispute resolution options. Rooted in Hong Kong's common law system, the Court will provide authoritative judicial determinations and enforceable judgments, including recognition and enforcement on the Chinese Mainland under relevant arrangements. The Judiciary aims to establish the HKICC within the coming year.

●●● Culture

Fashion Fest



The third edition of Hong Kong Fashion Fest launched with *Virtuose: The Artistry of Couture 2026*, organised by the Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association and held at the Hong Kong Palace Museum.

Bringing together four designer brands from Spain, Vietnam and Hong Kong, the show highlighted the couture designers' extraordinary craftsmanship and creativity.

The event underscores the Government's unwavering commitment to forging Hong Kong as Asia's premier fashion design capital.

●●● Commerce

Financial centre boosts

Ten new measures for furthering co-operation between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland markets have been welcomed by HKSAR Government.

They span a wide range of areas to consolidate and enhance its status as an international financial centre.

Meanwhile, an "Action Plan to Promote the Development of Corporate Treasury Centres in Hong Kong" has been unveiled to reinforce the city's role as a platform for 'bringing in and going global'.

Separately, a signing ceremony was held by Hong Kong's Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises to welcome the latest batch of 22 strategic enterprises establishing or extending their operations in Hong Kong. Between them they have a market value of over HK\$100 billion and include world-leading pharma firms.



Above: HKSAR's Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, interacted with representatives of the strategic enterprise at the Enterprises Signing Ceremony.

● ● ● Business

Central Asia co-operation



The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mr John Lee, led a business delegation to visit Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in June 2026 with a view to strengthening exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Central Asia in areas including finance, trade, infrastructure, innovation and technology (I&T), and green development. The delegation also aims to create trade corridors and explore market opportunities.

Concluding the visit, Mr Lee said the trip had yielded fruitful results, strengthened high-level government ties and expanded co-operation across trade, investment, finance, I&T, aviation, education and culture.

A total of 96 agreements and memoranda of understanding were reached during the visit, involving specific amounts exceeding US\$1.65 billion. The visit also paved the way for discussions on taxation and investment agreements, enhanced transport links and people-to-people exchanges, and promoted greater collaboration between Hong Kong and Central Asia. Mr Lee highlighted Hong Kong's role as a platform for Mainland enterprises to "go global" and the potential for closer hub-to-hub co-operation with the region.



Above: The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan in Tashkent.

● ● ● Finance

Economy's robust growth

Hong Kong's economy continued to expand robustly in the second quarter of 2026, with real gross domestic product (GDP) growing by 4.3% year on year, supported by buoyant external trade and resilient domestic demand.

Dynamic trade flows, driven by strong global demand for electronic products related to AI, propelled Hong Kong's total exports of goods to a year-on-year increase of 28.9% in the second quarter. Exports of services expanded solidly by 3.4% in real terms over a year earlier, with all major service groups continuing to expand. Domestically, private consumption expenditure rose firmly by 2.8% in real terms year on year, marking the fifth consecutive quarter of expansion.

● ● ● Culture

High-end showcase



An international flagship exhibition, The Festival of Connoisseurs (TFOC), showcasing superyachts and premium lifestyles will make its debut in Hong Kong in early November 2026.

Supported by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the event injected new impetus into the local convention and exhibition industry, underscoring Hong Kong's unique advantages as a global business centre. This was the first event to benefit from the government's HK\$100 million funding initiative to support such ventures.

Above: The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau (centre), and other guests before the press conference held by the organiser.

●●● Travel

Revamped Huanggang Port to connect Hong Kong and Shenzhen



The new Huanggang Port, newly opened on 12th October, is expected to make travel between Hong Kong and Shenzhen faster and more convenient.

With 24-hour operations, a co-location arrangement and a joint inspection clearance model, crossing times could be cut from around 30 minutes to just five.

Travellers can complete Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland immigration procedures in one go, with their documents read or faces scanned at automated clearance channels. The port also features a dedicated public transport interchange within the Hong Kong Port Area, providing convenient connections to various districts across Hong Kong.

●●● Travel

Win, win, win for airport

Exciting times at Hong Kong airport as the expanded Terminal Two has opened, marking another milestone for the city's multi-award-winning airport.

Spanning 300 000 square metres, the terminal uses smart technology to offer passengers a smoother experience from check-in to immigration clearance, further strengthening Hong Kong's position as a global aviation hub.

The airport has also garnered a raft of prestigious performance awards, including Best Airport in the World at the Global Travel Awards 2026 and Best Airport in China in the 2026 TTG China Travel Awards for the third year in a row.

It was also named the winner of World's Best Airport Security Processing and World's Best Airport Washrooms at the 2026 World Airport Awards.

Right: The departures hall (top) and ultra low self bag-drop counters (bottom) in Terminal Two.



●●● Sport

Historic Fencing

It was an historic moment for fencing at the World Championships 2026 as the Hong Kong men's foil team won the city's first-ever silver medal.

It was an outstanding performance from the quartet who showed unwavering fighting spirit on the world stage.

In all, 24 members of the Hong Kong, China Fencing Team took on the world's top fencers during the nine-day tournament.



Above (left to right): Silver medallists Leung Chin-yu, Harris Ho, Ryan Choi and Cheung Ka-long.

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London's (London ETO) rich calendar of events across the UK



London

Left: London ETO and City University of Hong Kong co-hosted a seminar in London in March titled "Bridging Innovation: Connecting Talent and Partnerships". Over 80 participants attended the event, including innovators and representatives from the business and academic sectors from the UK and Hong Kong. The Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (pictured), was delivering her opening remarks.

London

Right: With the support of the Marine Department, London ETO held a reception at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in May. It was attended by over 300 guests, including delegates from IMO member states, senior representatives of international maritime organisations, and prominent shipowner representatives based in London. Pictured (from left): the Marine Adviser, Permanent Representative to the IMO and Regional Head (London) of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry, Mr Ben Lau; the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau; and the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr Arsenio Dominguez, at the event.



London

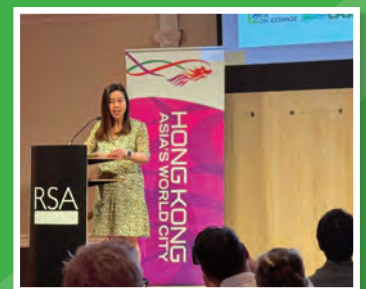
Right: London ETO, under the Economic and Trade Express (ETE) platform, supported the inaugural Chinese Shakespeare Supper and UK-China Business Awards, organised by the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) in London in May. The event was attended by about 250 guests from the business, political, education and cultural sectors. Pictured are the President of CBBC, Lord James Sassoon (left), and the Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Mr Zheng Zeguangu (right) at the event.



London



Left: The Hong Kong Association was supported by London ETO, under the ETE platform, to host a luncheon in London in June promoting Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre. Pictured are the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Mr Eddie Yue, delivering his keynote speech before he took questions from the audience and exchanged views on topics including the Linked Exchange Rate System and the modernisation of regulatory regimes.

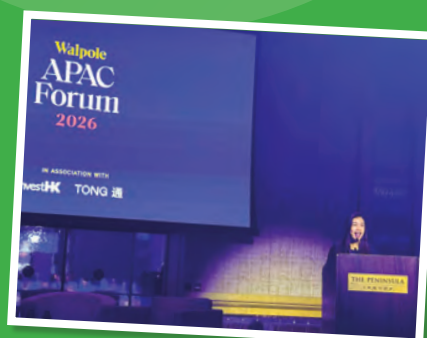


London

Above: London ETO, together with Invest Hong Kong, supported the seminar "Connecting London and Hong Kong: Scaling Urban Climate Solutions Across Markets" during London Climate Action Week in June. Pictured is the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau, delivering welcome remarks. It brought together over 80 representatives from the climate technology, finance, professional services, urban development and sustainability sectors to explore how London and Hong Kong can work together on urban climate solutions.

London

Right: Invest Hong Kong joined London ETO in supporting London's Walpole APAC Forum in June, promoting Hong Kong's role as an ideal springboard for brands seeking to expand across Asia. Pictured is the Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau, speaking at the Forum. The event brought together senior executives and industry leaders from the retail, travel, marketing and professional services sectors.





London

Left: Crafts on Peel's participation in London Craft Week 2026 in May was supported by the London ETO for the "Creative Cross-Pollination: The Future of Crafts" exhibition. The exhibition showcased the creativity and craftsmanship of Hong Kong, with the opening ceremony attracting many craft enthusiasts and highlighting opportunities for cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the UK.

London

Right: Under the ETE platform, the London ETO co-hosted an insightful exchange with a delegation from the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants in July, led by its President, Mr Stephen Law (fourth right), and Vice-President, Ms Jasmine Lee (fourth left). This was followed by a panel discussion with UK businesses and professional service providers, which highlighted the value of closer collaboration between Hong Kong and the UK. The Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (third right), also attended the events.



London

Left: The Musicus Society's cultural exchange tour, in partnership with the English Chamber Orchestra, was supported by London ETO in July. The Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau, and the tour members are pictured before a string ensemble performance with local students and musicians from the United Kingdom at the historic St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden. The tour brought together ten talented Hong Kong students aged 12 to 21 for a week of enriching musical learning and cultural exchange activities.

Edinburgh

Right: Three Hong Kong performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2026 were supported by London ETO in August, showcasing Hong Kong's vibrant arts and cultural scene. The Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau, is pictured (left) addressing the audience before the performance of "Cantonese Opera x Children's Interactive Theatre: Dic Dic Chang Chang Playground" by One Table Two Chairs Charitable Foundation (right). The other performances were "Boom Boom Battle of the Big Bad Bosses" by Yat Po Singers, and "HK Soul Showcase: Gemini and Romantic 4:48am" by Justyne LI and BLUE Ka Wing.



London & Edinburgh

Below: Before a new academic year dawned, London ETO hosted luncheons in London and Edinburgh in August for more than 100 UK university students heading to Hong Kong as exchange students. They enjoyed an early taste of Hong Kong, connected with fellow exchange students and shared tips ahead of their exciting journey.



London

Right: London ETO supported the Hong Kong Golden Age 1985-1997 Film Season presented at The Garden Cinema, London in August. The Director-General of the London ETO, Miss Fiona Chau (right), and Director Stanley Kwan (left) are pictured after the masterclass. Director Kwan also engaged in a lively exchange with film critics, students and members of the audience at the masterclass.



• • • Culture

Venue of the Year

Another prestigious honour recognises Hong Kong's Kai Tak Sports Park's innovation, operations and visitor experience. The stadium has been crowned Venue of the Year at the 2026 Stadium Business Awards. It marks a major milestone for Hong Kong as a premier destination for mega events.

Since opening in March 2025, the venue has transformed the city's live events scene, hosting nearly 150 major sports and entertainment events, with the Kai Tak Stadium alone welcoming more than 2.4 million visitors.



• • • Sport

Football fever

Hong Kong enjoyed a spectacular summer of international football, with three high-profile matches bringing some of Europe's biggest clubs to Kai Tak Stadium in the space of just 10 days.



The Hong Kong Football Festival 2026 saw Inter defeat Manchester City 3-1 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw, before Juventus beat Chelsea 1-0 to lift The Herbalgy Trophy.

The two matches attracted nearly 90 000 fans. Days later, more than 38 000 spectators returned for the Audi Football Summit 2026, where Bayern Munich edged past Aston Villa 2-1.

The three matches showcased Hong Kong's growing appeal as a destination for world-class sporting events.



Top left: Kai Tak Sports Park came alive with football fans.

Middle left: Bayern Munich celebrate with their win.

Bottom left: Italian giants Juventus lifted The Herbalgy Trophy.

• • • Sport

Sevens mark 50th in style



Kai Tak Sports Park welcomed over 113 000 fans from around the world as the Hong Kong Sevens celebrated their 50th anniversary in a spectacular three-day tournament.

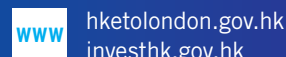
South Africa emerged victorious by defeating defending champs Argentina (35-7) in the men's final to win the title for the first time. New Zealand continued their dominance of the women's competition, beating Australia 19-14 to secure their fourth consecutive Hong Kong Sevens triumph.

Congratulations to the Hong Kong men's team for clinching the Melrose Claymores title for the third consecutive year, with a 19-15 win over Japan. Wearing replica kits from the inaugural 1976 tournament added a meaningful historic touch to their victory.

Above: South Africa (right) and New Zealand celebrate winning the men's and women's titles respectively.

For reference, HK\$100 = £9.62 and €11.38 as at 15th October 2026.

**FOR HONG KONG
EVENT DETAILS**



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